THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). The DDA has reported that no separate record in respect of applications received from Members of Parliament and allotment of flats made to them is maintained by it. All applicants/registrants under its various housing Schemes, including Members of Parliament, are treated on equal footing in the matter of allotment of flats.

(c) and (d). There is no provision for priority allotment to Members of Parliament as per the guidelines issued by the Government of India. However, any Member of Parliament who is eligible for priority/out of turn allotment of a flat as per the guidelines is accordingly considered for such allotment by the Empowered Committee.

[English]

Robot

3851. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed any "ROBOT" in collaboration with a company for being used in Atomic and Space institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the foreign equipments have also been used while developing this 'ROBOT';

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of amount incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay has developed, in collaboration with the public sector company M/s. HMT Limited, Bangalore, an upgraded Bilateral Master Slave Servomanipulator - a telerobotic system. This system can be used in atomic installations and also has possible applications for space devices.

(c) All the components and sub-systems used in this telerobotic system has been manufactured indigenously;

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The expenditure incurred on the development, production and commissioning of 3 pairs of Servomanipulators is Rs. 162.30 lakh approx. (excluding taxes, duties etc.).

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited

3852. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has entered into a 50:50 joint venture with Exxon of the U.S. to manufacture lubricants;

(b) if so, the details of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the HPCL and the U.S. Company including the blending and marketing of lubricants and the parallel marketing of LPG; and

(c) whether this joint venture is likely to help the HPCL in improving its market share in the lube industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) HPCL has not entered into a Joint Venture with M/s. Exxon, USA, so far, for manufacturing lubricants.

(b) and (c). HPCL has signed an MOU with M/s. Exxon to form a 50:50 Joint Venture Company for development of infrastructure for import and marketing of LPG. HPCL has also signed a technical-cum-marketing collaboration agreement with Exxon, for blending and marketing of Exxon brand lubricants in India.

Panchayati Raj

3853. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated November 8, 1996 captioned "Flawed Panchayati Raj"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It has been the endeavour of the Government of India to make the Panchayati Raj system more effective and responsive instruments for people's participation in local self-Government.

Construction of Flats

3854. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of flats constructed by the C.P.W.D. for the Government officers in the Pinjarapole Housing Complex in South Delhi;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon and when these flats were constructed;